



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Oktibbeha County, MS*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Oktibbeha County for a Brownfields Pilot. Oktibbeha County is part of the Golden Triangle Region, a 3,543-square mile, seven-county area in northeast Mississippi that was created in 1971 by a Mississippi Governor's executive order. The Golden Triangle (total population 172,416), and Oktibbeha County (population 38,522) in particular, have been targeted by the State for redevelopment. The unemployment and poverty rates for the area as a whole are 6.5% and 24.7%, respectively. The area participates in the Appalachian Regional Commission's Distressed Communities Program. Most of the communities in the area are small—12 of the area's 20 incorporated municipalities have populations of less than 1,000.

As part of a region-wide sustainable development initiative, the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority purchased approximately 220 acres of property from Mississippi State University for development of the Mississippi Research and Technology Park. During the third phase of the project, it was discovered that a 10-acre portion of the land needed to complete the last portion of the project was formerly used as a landfill. This third phase calls for creation of a technology-based business incubator and a state-of-the-art science

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Oktibbeha County,  
Mississippi*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets a 10-acre former landfill for cleanup and redevelopment into the Center for Environmental, Biological, and Social Information Technology Enterprises.

### Contacts:

Economic Development  
Agency  
Oktibbeha County  
(601) 324-7776

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 4  
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

and technology “exploratorium.” The suspected presence of contaminants such as PCBs and hazardous laboratory waste has prevented completion of the project.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The County’s primary objective is to assess, clean up, and redevelop the target area into the Center for Environmental, Biological, and Social Information Technology Enterprises (CEBSITE). When completed, CEBSITE will be comprised of a 50,000-square-foot technology-based business incubator, a youth-focused science and technology exploratorium, and regional recreational and day care facilities. The Pilot will assist in achieving this objective by conducting site assessments and facilitating interaction among stakeholders affected by redevelopment of the former landfill.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments of the target site; and
- Implementing various community involvement and public participation activities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.